G. R. S. 58

Previous references.

B. Prov. 07 SS 7 — 10.5.R.89-06

B. w. 907 SS 1—6 — do — 1907-8

(Sep. Revl)

Later references.

f-21

File No. 180—07

Serial Nos. 1—6

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 1—6

Part B. for May, 1908

SUBJECT.

Retail price of Opium in the city as compared with that in the Cantonment Station of Bangalore.

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1) From the Excise Commissioner No. 6671 & 8.2.08 - (D. 3030) forwards a statement showing the consumption of Ganja and Opium in Bangalore city as compared with that in the Cantonment station during the half-year ending 31.12.07 & submits certain proposals re the retail prices in the city.

GPB ..8,000—7-4-07

2) To the P.A. Resident. No. 1048 89 07. Requests him to move the Resident to issue needful instructions for

Assimilating the rates of Opium in
Cis-Sutlej Station Bangalore

3) To the Excise Commr no. 2854/28 23/04
Forwards for information copy of Govt (A)

4) From the Excise Commr
no. 9224 & 24/04
Requests early orders on his letter
Serial (B)

5) From the J.A. Resident.
no. 2254 & 27.4.04.
States that the Resident has
ordered the assimilation of
the rate for Opium with
those prevailing in the Cis
Sutlej Station.

6) To the Excise Commissioner
no. 5695 & 1.5.04
Informs him of the above

G.R.S. 11] 1907-08)

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

(SR)

NOTES.

File. No. 180-07

FILE HEADING.

Retail price of opium in the city as compared with that in the C&M Station of Bangalore.

From

The Excise Commissioner.

No. 6671 Dated 8/2/08 Received

Diary No. 3030.	Encls.	Spare Copies.	Serial No. 1.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards a statement showing the consumption of Ganja & opium in Bangalore City as compared with that in the C&M Stn during the 1/2 yr ending 31/12/07 & submits certain proposal, re: the retail price of Opium in the city.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

Y

Sl. Nos 155 in SR 89-00 will show that the enhancement of the Retail price of the article under consideration for some time from Since 1905.

NOTES—First sheet

GPB—30,000—20-3-06.

Serial No.

and that upon the suggestion of the Residency in order to put a stop to the suspected smuggling of opium into Coorg to enhance the retail vend price from 0-7-6 to 1-0-0 per tola, both the rates were enhanced. The situation in the relation which between the C & M. Stn of Bangalore & the city was completely lost sight of. The enhancement in both of the rates in the city without corresponding increase in the C & M Stn has materially affected the city revenue & a reference to the Residency in the matter has become necessary. As no reference can be made in official communications to the Correspondence and as the previous Correspondence with the Residency on the subject was D.O.L., a D.O. letter to the Resident is solicited for & a draft [illegible]

Note—Contn sheet.

[G. R. S. 12]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

GSh File No. 180 of 1907.

Serial No.

Type submit to Dewan - through I.S.O.

6003
4-3-08.

The draft may be approved
Sd/ Thod
6/3

CSO
10/3/08
12/3

8278
6/3/08

A copy of the D.O. reference made to the First Assistant Resident is placed in the file and the papers resubmitted.

SR
10/3/08 Br II

AB
12-3-08
12/3

2. To the First Asst Resident.
No. 1048 dt 9.3.08.
Requests him to move the Resident to issue needful instructions for enhancing the rates of opium in the Hill Station Bangalore.
H. Mangalore has been to send a copy to the Excise Comr a copy of the Comrs letter to the Residency enclosed with a draft accordingly for approval or otherwise orders of his Govt.

Type
4.6.08
11/4

11.6.08
12/6

NOTE—Contn sheet.

GPB—50 000—17-3-07

4090 4

G. R. S. 12]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

S R File No. 180 of 1907-08.

Serial No.	
3.	To the Excise Comr No H 5412 dt 23.4.08. Forwds for information copy of ~~the~~ sl no 2.
4.	From the Excise Commissioner No 9224 dt 24.4.08. Requests to be informed of the result of his representation made in sl 1 as the excise sales will be held on 18th May and the bidders will have to be informed of the changes if any made in the C & M Station.

The Office is not aware of any reply having been received from the Resident. It is however understood that effect has been given in the C & M. Stn to our proposal. Perhaps a reply might have been received in the Political Office

Submitted for orders

Sd/ 28/4/08

Mr

This file may be destroyed from its Subject & D 1924/4

NOTE—Contn sheet.

GPB—50,00017—3-07

G. R. S. 12]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

S. R. File No. 180. of 1907-08

Serial No.

5. From the First Asst. Resident
No. 2254/ & 23/4/08.
With reference to 2 states that the Resident has ordered the assimilation, with effect from the 1st May 1908, of the rates for opium in the Ct. Sts. with those prevailing in the city & that it will be sold to the licensed vendors in the Sts at Rs 11-4-0 per seer of 24 tolas & to the public by licensed vendors at Rs 13-8-0 per seer of 24 tolas.
Ended with a draft Communication the deal to the Excise Comr. accordingly
23/4/08 & refer draft to the Resident
30/4/08 30/4/08

Sig) From draft to the Comm.
The draft D. C. to the Resident
be sent to Govt
23/4/08
Rs 1/-

To. The Excise Commissioner

draft not [illegible]

D.O 57. A.R has been issued from Camp Ootacamund on 3/5/08

6

NOTE.- Contn sheet.

GPB - 50,00017--3-07

G. R. S. 12]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

SR File No. 180 of 1907-08

Serial No.

No. 5695 9/5/08.

Informs him that the Hon. The Resident has ordered with effect from 1st May '08 the assimilation of the rates for the Sale of opium in C & M station with those prevailing in the City.

14 6/08

NOTE.—Contn sheet.

GPB-50,00017—3·07

No. 6671

Office of the Excise Commissioner
in Mysore,
Dated Bangalore, 8th February 1908.

From

H.H. Sparkes Esquire,
Excise Commissioner, in Mysore.

To

C.S. Balasundram Iyer Esquire, B.A.,
Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
General & Revenue Departments.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the kind perusal of Government a statement showing the consumption of Ganja and Opium in the Bangalore City as compared with that in the Civil and Military Station during the six months ending with December 1907. I beg to submit that I have reason to suspect that the falling off in the consumption of Opium in the City is due to the smuggling from the Station, which is rendered profitable by the difference in the rates prevailing in the two places. The fall may partly be also due to the Opium consumers of the City being attracted by the low rate of price at which the Station shop-keeper can afford to sell the article. The situation of the City and the Station is such that it is well nigh impossible to successfully detect cases of Opium smuggling. It is, therefore, necessary that the retail price should be fixed at the same figure as far as possible on both sides of the border.

2. In the Civil and Military Station Opium is issued to the retail vendor from the Honourable the Resident's Treasury at Rs.9-6-0 per seer of 24 tolas. Neither the maximum nor the minimum price is fixed and consequently the vendor is at liberty to sell the article at any price above his cost which comes to Rs.0-6-3 per tola.

3.

3. Until last year in the Mysore State also Opium used to be issued to the retail vendor from the Taluk Treasuries at the same rate as the one now prevailing in the Station. But according to the declared and consistent policy of the State Opium was sold to the consumer at the fixed rate of Rs.0-7-6 per tola. At the suggestion of the Honourable the Resident the rates of issue and vend were raised to prevent an apprehended smuggling of Mysore Opium into Coorg. The Mysore Opium licensee has now to buy his Opium at the rate of Rs.11-4-0 per seer of 24 tolas or Rs.0-7-6 per tola. He should sell the article at Rs.0-9-0 per tola and he can sell neither for more nor for less, while his brother licensee in the Station can sell the article for anything above Rs.0-6-3. In these circumstances I need not say that there is every tendency for the Station Opium being smuggled into the City besides the City Opium consumers are sure to frequent the Station Opium shops which are within easy walking distance from the City. This supposition is strengthened by the fact that in the Station the consumption has already reached an unprecedented high figure. Up to date as much as 604 seers have already been issued and this quantity is larger than what was issued either during the whole year of 1905-06 or 1906-07 and is only less by 9 seers than what was issued during the whole of 1904-05. In the City during the half year only 99 seers were issued and this figure is comparatively only about a fourth of what was issued during the years 1904 to 1907. It may be contended that the fall in the consumption of Ganja has contributed to the increase in the consumption of Opium. But the low figure in sale of Ganja is not peculiar to the Station alone. In the whole State there has been a decrease in consumption owing, it is said, to the inferior quality of the Kanayambadi Ganja. The City has even fared even worse which is attributable partly to the inferior imported stuff and partly to the disparity in the rates prevailing in the City and in the Station.

4. I regret that while this office letter No.4006, dated

6th

6th May 1907 proposing to raise the issue and vend prices of Opium was addressed to Government, the prevailing rates in the Civil and Military Station were not brought to the notice of Government. The oversight has now to be felt too severly. In the Station also the present prevailing rates are those which were fixed so far back as 1885 and a revision now is necessary.

5. While in the case of spirits and Ganja the minimum price is fixed neither the maximum nor the minimum is fixed in the case of Opium. But according to the views of the Indian Excise Committee as approved by the Government of India it is desirable that minimum prices should be prescribed. Considering that the Government have readily acquiesced in the proposal of the Honourable the Resident to raise the rates in the State in order to safeguard the Opium Revenue of Coorg, I request that Government may be pleased to move the Honourable the Resident to revise the existing issue and vend rates of opium in the Station so as to place the Station and City Opium sellers on the same vantage ground. Opium should be issued from the Honorable the Resident's Treasury at Rs.11-4-0 per seer of 24 tolas and the retail vendor should not sell the article below the minimum price of Rs.0-9-0 per tola. A very early reference is necessary as revised rates will have to be announced before the next auction sales which come off about the end of this month in the Civil and Military Station.

6. The difference in the prices of Ganja does not call for any action. With effect from the 1st April 1908, the Honorable the Resident has arranged to get the necessary supply of Ganja to the Civil and Military Station from the Madras Presidency. The required quantity, 1200 seers, is to be supplied from the Kanayambadi store-house in the North Arcot District and the charge therefor is the price of the drug payable to the owners together with the cost of transport, it being understood that such duty, as may from time to time be levied on the drug in Madras, shall be charged on the quantity imported into the

Civil

Civil and Military Station. The present rate of duty levied in Madras is Rs5/- per seer of 80 tolas, which is the same as the current rate in the Mysore State. It is hoped that the minimum price to be fixed in the Station will not be below 2 annas per tola.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Excise Commissioner, in Mysore.

Statement showing the Consumption of Ganja and Opium in the Bangalore City and C & M Station Bangalore.

	Ganja								Opium.							
	1904-05		1905-06		1906-07		1907-08		1904-05		1905-06		1906-07		1907-08	
Bangalore City	372	-	252	-	310	-	96 (a)	-	334	40	370	-	316	40	99 (a)	-
C & M. Station Bangalore	1541	-	1715	-	890	-	537 (b)	-	613	-	438	-	522	-	604 (c)	-

note.

(a) up to the end of December 190

(b) up to 11-1-1908

(c) up to 13-1-1908.

Excise Commissioner,
in Mysore

No. 1048 (2)

Camp Mysore,
9th March 1908.

Dear Mr. Rennie,

Please refer to the D.O. correspondence ending with my letter No.816 dated 6th November 1907 regarding the enhancement, with effect from the 1st July 1907, of the issue price and the retail vend rate of opium, with a view to assimilating the rates on both sides of the Coorg frontier.

When taking action in this matter on the suggestion made in your D.O. letter No.18 of the 23rd January 1907, the attention of the Durbar was not specially directed to the rates obtaining in the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, and it was taken for granted that the system suggested for Coorg would also be adopted in the Civil and Military Station.

The Excise Commissioner has since brought to notice that the rates prevailing in the Civil and Military Station have not been changed, that they are much lower than the rates prevailing in the City and that the disparity has given rise to smuggling and other practices, the effect of which is clearly seen in the great fall in opium consumption in the City and a great increase in the opium consumption in the Civil and Military Station.

From 1st July 1907 the opium vendor in the City gets his opium from the Treasury at 7½ annas per tola and he has to sell it to the consumer at 9 annas per tola. In the Civil and Military Station on the other hand, he gets his opium from the Treasury at 6½ annas per tola and there is no minimum price fixed for sale to consumers, he is therefore in a very advantageous position as compared with the vendor in the City and can easily undersell the latter.

The result has been that from 1st July 1907 to 11th January 1908 the opium consumed in the City has been only 99 seers as against 316 seers in the year 1906-07, while the consumption in the Civil and Military Station up to 13th January 1908 has been 604 seers as against 522 seers in 1906-07. The City and the Civil and Military Station are situated in such a manner that the prevention of smuggling between the two is extremely difficult and the cheapness of the drug in the Station is also sure to attract consumers from the City to the Station shops, which are within easy distance of the City.

The rates prevailing in the Civil and Military Station were fixed so far back as 1885 and may well be revised so as to make them more suitable to the circumstances of the present day.

I would therefore suggest that the rates in the Civil and Military Station may be assimilated to those prevailing in the City just as the rates in the State were assimilated to those in Coorg.

In this connection I would also urge for the Hon'ble the Resident's consideration the desirability of fixing a minimum or fixed price for the sale of opium by vendors to consumers. The Indian Excise Committee and the Government of India have considered that minimum prices should be prescribed and it would be desirable to adopt the same minimum rate as prevails in the City.

I request therefore that you will kindly move the Hon'ble the Resident to issue needful instructions with a view to enhancing the rates as noted in the margin so as to assimilate them to those

Issue price 0-7-6 per tola and retail vend rate 0-9-0 per tola.

prevailing in the City.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/- V. P. Madhava Rao.

G.R.S. 26]

8R File No. 180/07
Serial No. 3

3030

Diary No. of letter replied to X

No. H 5412
& 23rd April/08

General and Revenue Secretariat
(SR)
, *the* 190 .

To
The Excise Commissioner
in Mysore.

Sir,

Date of issue 23rd April/08

I am directed to forward herewith for information, a copy of this office No. 1048 & 9.3.08 to the First Assistant Resident, in the matter of the assimilation of the price of opium in the city and the C.A.D. station of Bangalore.

I have &c.,
BS
for Secy.

9/4,

over.

SUBJECT.

II 4 27/4

No. 9224.

Office of the Excise Commissioner
in Mysore,
Dated Bangalore, 24 th April 1908.

From

H.H. Sparkes Esquire,
Excise Commissioner, in Mysore.

To

C.S. Balasundram Iyer Esquire, B.A.,
O/S Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
General & Revenue Departments.

Sir,

I have the honor to invite reference to my letter No.6671 dated 12 th February 1908 regarding the issue and vend price of Opium in the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, and to request to be informed of the result of my representation. The Excise sales for 1908-09 of the Bangalore City will be held on the 18th May and the bidders will have to be informed of the changes, if any, made in the rates in the Civil and Military Station.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your most obedient servant,

for Excise Commissioner,
in Mysore.

S. R. 180—07—5.

D.O. Rom. No: 850 & 26/4/08
Pol: 1533.
R 29—4—08.

THE RESIDENT MYSORE

BANGALORE.

23rd April 1908.

D. 4121

To Meteer P.P. Bee Bkwl 08
No 2254. Inform Vor II
& Com SB 27/4
29/4/8

Dear Mr. Madhava Rao,

Your D/O letter No.1048 dated 9th March 1908.

The Resident has ordered the assimilation with effect from 1st May 1908 of the rates for opium in the Civil and Military Station with those prevailing in the Bangalore City. It will be sold to licensed vendors at in the station No.Rs.11-4-0 per seer of 24 tolas, and to the public by licensed vendors at Rs.13-8-0 per seer of 24 tolas.

Yours sincerely

J. P. Rennie

V. P. Madhava Rao Esq., C.I.E.,
Dewan of Mysore.

S.I.

G.R.S. 26]

2 Draft

File No. 680-07

Serial No 7

Diary No. of letter replied to 40902 / 4121.

No. 8-0 to 7.A.R has been issued for compliance. 8/5/08

General and Rev. Secretariat

(SH)

, *the* 190 .

Date of issue

Signed by

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your D.O. letter No. 2254 of 23rd April 08 intimating that the Honble the Resident will effect from 1st Aug 07 has ordered the assimilation with

over.

SUBJECT.

List of enclosures,

Copied by

Examined by

GCPB—20,000-19-12—04.